

What do these 10 places have in common?

Crete, Mauritius, Vietnam, Zambia, Albania, Extremadura, Saxony, The Tyrol, Aruba and **Shropshire**
.....ABTA's top 10 destinations to watch for in 2024 !

Here's what they said on their website:

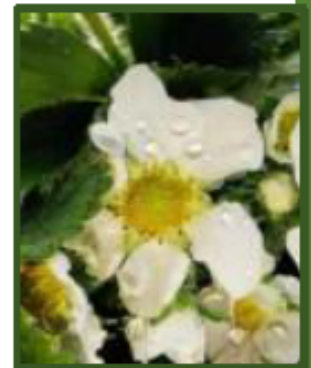
Shropshire

This idyllic English county on the Welsh borders has some of the country's most beautiful landscapes, towns and villages. Shropshire is not only a rural gem, it was also the birthplace of the industrial revolution.

Send us some of your piccies and tell us why you love Shropshire so much.
articles@theparishpost.org

April in the garden

After such a wet and dull March, all we can hope for is some sunshine this month amongst the April showers. In the garden we're still busy sowing seeds ready to be planted out in May after the last frost. Week one I sow; tomatoes, lettuce, spring onions, brassicas, beans and peas, beetroot, leeks, melons, cosmos, zinnias, calendula, nasturtiums, sunflowers and marigolds.



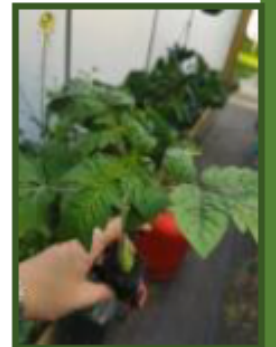
Week three I sow; cucumbers, courgettes, squash and sweetcorn. Plant out any undercover tomatoes.

We can continue planting out potatoes, sow carrots, radish and parsnips directly outside. And continue any successional sowing such as salads.

Start hardening off earlier sowings of tomatoes, peppers, chillies and sweet peas and continue potting on plants as they outgrow their pots.

It's a great time to get kids involved in the garden sowing tomatoes for hanging baskets, lettuce, radish and planting edible flowers and strawberries. If you're interested in learning to grow your own you can join in with grow-alongs on Seedling success UK.

We can be found on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



Don't worry if you haven't sown anything yet, there is still plenty of time.

Vegetable and flower plants will also be available to buy from our little plant stall at 4 Little Brampton from May.

Written by Kimberly Cornish

For more than 50 years, Kempton resident Ed Cooper has kept in touch with his cousin John in Western Australia who, with his parents, emigrated there in 1955 under the "Assisted Passage Migration Scheme".

Migrants became known as "Ten Pound Poms", £10 being the 'fare' charged per adult.

Recently, the pair met up for the first time since 1955, exchanging photographs which recorded the occasion when both were just aged nine.

Ed arranged to meet up with them in the port town of Chioggia in NE Italy. John and Kate were docked there for three days midway through a Mediterranean cruise .

"There were emotional moments," Ed recalls, when the pair discussed how their respective lives had panned out over the years.



Ed, John and Kate with the Mayor of Chioggia

Clunton

- 1st Chloe Peers
- 2nd Mary Gittins
- 3rd Ian Davies



Clunbury

- | | |
|----------------|-----|
| Toby Matveieff | £20 |
| Sarah Watkins | £15 |
| Lynne Morris | £10 |
| Helen White | £5 |
| Gill Deakins | £5 |

South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Chinese gardens and landscapes

A talk by Liz O'Rourke

Wednesday 24th April 7.30pm

Lydbury North Village Hall



Free to members, Guests £5

Contact Angie Salmon 01588 661025 or

email angiejsalmon@btinternet.com for more information

We are a friendly club of like-minded garden enthusiasts. We meet at Lydbury North Village Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Interesting speakers, forums, advice, outings, seed offers, plant sales. We are affiliated to the RHS. Come and join us! Refreshments available.

Annual membership is £20

www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk and Facebook

A Downton Ramble

Advance notice: I am trying to organise a Ramble through Downton Gorge in early May. It will be a three mile walk with some steep ascents and difficult terrain, so it is only for the sure-footed. Tea and cake at the delightful Old Downton Lodge will be included, but there will obviously be a cost to this and Natural England charges for entry too, so the total cost will be £15 per head. No dogs and no children under 10, but other children will get a free walk and a free tea.

Numbers are limited, so it is first come, first served. Please email me if you would like to attend and I will advise you once I have a date.

On Whinberry Hill

The winter programme of work is now complete. All the Sitka Spruce have been felled and all the brash burned or put in a row round the boundary. An area of dense Bracken litter has been scraped off in the hope of promoting the germination of other heathland plants. An information board will be erected shortly as, all being well, will two rustic benches.

Litter Pick

Ten attended a successful litter pick on 9 March. Two picked the road from Kempton to near the entry to Walcot Farm, the rest of us concentrated on the B4368 each side of Clunton.



Here are seven of the crew.

From left to right:

Ian Davies, Pat Harding, Tom Wall,

Angie Salmon, Diane Carey,

Catherine Lishman, Tania Waghorn

Not in the picture Jo Skinner, Steve Molyneux
and Gisèle Wall

Water Monitoring

Come and observe or participate in our monthly monitoring sessions:

River Kemp at Kempton Ford: Friday 12 April, 2pm

River Clun at Clunbury: Sunday 14 April, 11.30am (meet at the footbridge in the centre of the village)

River Clun at Clunton: Tuesday 16 April, 10.30am at Clunton Bridge

Group contact: Tom Wall walltom@hotmail.co.uk 01588 660561

After the announcement recently of the death of Dave Myers we thought we would pay homage to the Hairy Bikers who visited our county on several occasions. Many local markets including Aston on Clun host a local butcher called George who sells fresh local meat from his farm in Lydbury North.

Pork (or Sausage) and butter bean casserole.

4 slices of lean belly pork or 8 sausages
2 slices of bacon chopped into pieces
1 large sliced brown onion
Half a tsp fennel seeds
500g cooked small potatoes
Sliced cabbage (savoy or spring)
2 eating apples, cored and thickly sliced
300ml cider or apple juice
1 tbsp fresh sage chopped



Can of butter beans
1 tbsp Dijon mustard
200ml chicken stock
15g butter
Salt and black pepper

Method

Heat a little oil in a large flameproof casserole, add the chopped bacon and the slices of belly pork/sausages and fry until golden brown on all sides.

Remove to a plate and keep warm.

Lightly fry the onions in the remaining oil, adding some of the butter, until soft, add the potatoes and butter beans together with sage, fennel seeds, salt and pepper.

Pour in liquids and stir well ensuring you scrape any bits off the bottom of the pan. Mix mustard in well and add meat. Bring to the boil and cover.

Either simmer on low heat for 30 minutes or put into a warm oven for 40 minutes. Add apple slices about 15 minutes into cooking time.

Stir fry cabbage until cooked and beginning to caramelize, season with salt and pepper and some grated nutmeg. Mix into the casserole, or serve as a side.

Dessert

Why not roast new season rhubarb in the oven? Just cut up the stalks into bite size pieces and put into an ovenproof dish, add 2 tablespoons of fresh orange juice, a tsp of vanilla essence and 2 tablespoons of demerara sugar and bake for 15 - 20 mins until rhubarb is cooked. If you have any elderflowers in your garden or the local hedgerow, add two heads worth of the flowers or add elderflower cordial to taste. Serve with thick yogurt, custard or cream.

A delicious end to a meal.

The deteriorating condition of the River Clun and its tributaries

The Environment Agency routinely monitors the condition of rivers, including the Clun, and every three years makes an assessment of their chemical and ecological status. For this purpose, the Clun and its principal tributaries are divided into eight river reaches, as shown in the table; the tributaries are the Folly Brook, Unk, Kemp and Redlake. The EA also assesses the Snakescroft Brook, a tributary of the Kemp; this is because the Brook takes the outfall from Bishop's Castle's Sewage Treatment Works.

The chemical status of each reach is assessed as either Good or Failing, and in common with all rivers in England, all reaches within the Clun catchment are now found to be Failing. What does this mean? And why is it the case?

The Environment Agency also assesses the ecological status of the river and its tributaries using various water, habitat and biological quality tests. It then attributes each reach to one of five categories: High, Good, Moderate(MOD), Poor or Bad. In 2013, all but one of the reaches then assessed were considered Good, now all but one are no better than Moderate. These assessments are shown below, they are made according to the Water Framework Directive - Ecological Classification.

What needs to be done to return the River Clun and its tributaries to their former Good ecological status and to improve their chemical status? What can each of us do to help in this endeavour? I will send this article to the Environment Agency and I am hoping that they will let us know.

Tom Wall

Year River reach	2010	2013	2016	2019	2022
River Clun: Source to confluence Folly Brook	GOOD	GOOD	MOD	MOD	MOD
Folly Brook	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	MOD
River Clun: confluence Folly Brook to confluence River Unk	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
River Unk	GOOD	MOD	MOD	GOOD	MOD
River Clun: confluence River Unk to River Teme	GOOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD
Snakescroft Brook	No data	GOOD	POOR	MOD	MOD
River Kemp	GOOD	POOR	POOR	MOD	MOD
River Redlake	MOD	GOOD	MOD	MOD	MOD

Church News

Services in April

Tuesday 2 nd	Holy Communion	Trinity, Clun
Sunday 14 th	Holy Communion	Clunbury
Sunday 28 th	Holy Communion	Clunton

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW VICAR FOR THE CLUN VALLEY BENEFICE

Following the second round of advertising during January and February 2024, and interviewing in March 2024, we are delighted to be able to announce the appointment of The Reverend Lois Beynon as the next Vicar of the Clun Valley Benefice.

Lois is currently Curate in the West Hereford Team Ministry, so knows the diocese well, having also served as a Ministry Experience Intern in a rural multi-parish setting in the Diocese prior to ordination training. She has a specific calling to rural ministry, and is very much looking forward to starting her ministry in the Clun Valley.

Lois, her husband Joe, and their two young children will be moving to Clun ahead of her licensing in July 2024.

Details of Lois' licensing service will follow nearer the time. In the meantime please join us in praying for Lois, Joe, and their children as they prepare to move, for the parishes of the West Hereford Team as they prepare to say goodbye to Lois and her family, and for all the parishes of the Clun Valley and the wider Deanery preparing to welcome Lois and work with her in the next stage of the Benefice's life and witness.

The Right Reverend Richard Jackson
Bishop of Hereford

The Venerable Fiona Gibson
Archdeacon of Ludlow

St Swithin's news

Mothering Sunday: We had a lovely service taken Rev Clare Sanders and thanks to Mary Jones who had made some pretty posies that were distributed during the service.

Brass Cleaners Needed – We are getting short of people on the monthly brass cleaning rota. Please contact Mary Jones (01588660316) if you could put a few hours aside to shine up the brasses.

Coffee and biscuits are enjoyed after all 10am services.

Do come and enjoy with a chat after our services.

Climate and Environment Group Report

Biodiversity Duty

We have made a submission to the Parish Council suggesting that it should adopt the following policies as contributions to meeting its Biodiversity Duty under the Environment Act of 2021:

Continue to provide financial and practical support to Water Monitoring, the Whinberry Hill project and Litter Picking.

Agree to ring-fence any proceeds from the Whinberry Hill project, using them exclusively for biodiversity projects, ideally as match-funding to lever-in grant monies.

Seek to persuade Clun Town Council to take the lead in promoting a catchment-wide Natural Flood Management scheme involving all the Parish and Town Councils in the Clun catchment.

Engage at an early date with staff of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape (AONB) to identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity in the Parish, particularly on farmland, where the underlying principle will be 'for the good, at the same time, of farming as well as nature'.

Scrutinise planning applications carefully, seeking to ensure that biodiversity and the environment are safeguarded and enhanced through the planning process.

A Walk and a Ramble

We are starting a series of Parish Walks designed as explorations of our extensive parish using rights of way. The first will be on Saturday 6 April. It will be about 7.5 miles long and follow footpaths, bridleways and quiet lanes from Llan Farm to Black Hill via Llanbrook and Obley, returning via the Cwm. It is a hilly walk (great views) with one very steep section and a few tricky stiles!

Please park at The Llan Barn, Llan Farm (grid ref: SO 352 793) from 9.45am for a 10.00am start, returning around 1.30pm. We will stop briefly to look at the work being done on the parish land so please bring a snack/drink. If you are interested in joining the walk please text/ring Catherine on 07930 117 006 or email catherinelishman@hotmail.com

On Saturday 20 April, Andy Wigley, an archaeologist who leads Shropshire Council's Historic Environment team will lead a Parish Ramble over the parish boundary to Burrow Hill Fort. We will meet at 2pm by the keeper's cottage (grid ref: SO 378 822) which lies at the end of a rough track (drive cautiously) on the north side of the B4368 to Aston on Clun.

Calendar April 2024

Date	Event	Venue
Tues 2 nd April 7.30pm	Film - The Fablemans (12A)	Lydbury North VH
Tues 2 nd April 7.30pm	Film - River (U)	Leintwardine Community Centre
Wed 3 rd April 10-12pm	Craft Group	Clunbury VH
Thurs 4 th April 9-12pm	Clunbury Cafe	Clunbury VH
Sat 6 th April 9.45am – 1.30pm	Parish walk See article: Climate and Environment Group	Meet Llan Barn Llan farm
Tues 9 th April 7.15pm	Royal Ballet – Macmillan Celebrated	Ludlow Assembly Rooms
Thurs 11 th April 7pm	Film – Anatomy of a Fall (15)	SpArC theatre BC
Tues 16 th April 2pm	Film – Typist Artist Pirate King (12A)	SpArC theatre BC
Wed 17 th April 10-12pm	Craft Group	Clunbury VH
Thurs 18 th April 9-12pm	Clunbury Cafe	Clunbury VH
Sat 20 th April 2pm	Parish ramble to Burrow Hill Fort	See article: Climate and Environment Group
Sat 20 th April 10am – 1pm	Aston on Clun Craft and Collectables Market	Aston on Clun VH
Sat 20 th April 7pm	Film – Oppenheimer (12)	Aston on Clun VH
Tues 23 rd April 7pm	NT Live – Nye (12A)	Aston on Clun VH
Thurs 25 th April 7pm	Film – The Nettle Dress (12A)	SpArC theatre BC
Wed 1 st May TBC	Royal Opera - Carmen	Ludlow Assembly Rooms SpArC Theatre BC

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Please submit articles and photos by 20th of each month. To ensure we can include as many articles as possible, we have revised the maximum word limit to **200 words**. The editorial team does not accept responsibility for any opinions expressed by contributors and reserves the right to edit contributions if deemed appropriate.